

REMARKS

The Patent Office, in its communication of April 28, 2003, alleges that the above-referenced application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species and subspecies. Specifically, the Patent Office identifies Species I as the embodiment of Figure 1 and Species II as the embodiment of Figure 2. The Patent Office identifies subspecies A as the embodiment of Figure 9 and subspecies B as the embodiment of Figure 10. The Patent Office did not associate any claim with any particular species or subspecies. The only claim specifically referenced is claim 1, which the Patent Office admits is generic with respect to the species and subspecies.

To provide a complete response, Applicant provisionally elects Species I, subspecies A with traverse. Applicant has reviewed the claims at issue and has determined that all claims 1-37 are generic with respect to the species and subspecies that the Patent Office has identified. As such, the restriction is improper or at a minimum, premature. Applicant requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement at this time.

If the Patent Office disagrees, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned or his associate Taylor Davenport by telephone to discuss which claims are not generic with respect to the species and subspecies outlined by the Patent Office and why the Patent Office maintains that the claims are not generic.

Applicant requests claim examination and allowance at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS BEING TRANSMITTED VIA FACSIMILE ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW TO: Examiner: <u>Tran, Khoi H.</u> Art Unit: <u>3651</u> Fax: <u>703-872-9326</u> <u>Kelly Farrow</u> _____ Name of Sender <u>[Signature]</u> _____ Signature <u>5/19/03</u> _____ Date of Transmission

Respectfully submitted,

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